

Covid 2021

Special Edition (232)



Artisan Golfer

The only magazine about Artisan golf for Artisan golfers



Rainbows on Course by PJ Cunningham

Contents

Secretary's Report	3
Treasurer's Report	4
England Golf Report	4
Safe Golf.....	4
Return to Golf.....	4
Return to Golf Timeline	8
Affiliation Fees	8
Nationally agreed collection policies and procedures for dealing with late payment of affiliation fees	8
Flackwell Heath	9
Grange Park	10
Hartsbourne	10
Royal Cinque Ports	10
Royal Mid-Surrey	12
And finally	13

The Artisan Golfers' Association

(Affiliated to England Golf) www.agagolf.co.uk for contact details

The Object of the Association is to unite the various Artisan Golf Clubs in the British Isles into one Association and to encourage and help in the formation of clubs.

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Secretary's Report

Wow where does one start! First of all I wish everyone well and pray that you your families and friends have not been affected by these awful uncertain times we are experiencing.

At the time of writing all the council committee are safe and well and Doug has read 70 books so I expect he will be well versed further in history and knowledge.

This year has seen families, friends and loved ones suffer with this terrible pandemic of such we have never experienced in our life time. It has not only affected people's health but business and putting us all in positions we have never encountered before.

If we try and put some perspective on the way forward, first of all our health is the most important thing. We must make sure we do everything possible to keep to the guidelines, look after your families and friends, help neighbours who may not be able to get out for food and medication and to make sure you and everyone connected to you keep safe and well. I am sure there will be light at the end of the tunnel with COVID-19 vaccines now being introduced. This will help us through the dreadful times and strains this has put us all under.

I have still been very busy with clubs and members asking for advice on ways forward with some of the things their main clubs have asked them to do or pay for. The introductions of tee times has been awkward at first, but in general, has been mainly successful in giving Artisans playing times to ensure they also get to play on the courses. The winter light restrictions has also not helped the clubs that have reduced playing times under normal circumstances which has made it difficult for a few clubs.

WHS system has now been introduced and, as you can imagine, it has had a few teething problems which they are sorting out with most of the issues that have been raised. Any information on WHS can be found on the England Golf website and we have also put a presentation on how it works are on our website for everyone to look at.

As you are all aware our season has been decimated in regards of Championships and some clubs have managed to complete their own club competitions, which I think was a fantastic achievement under the time and circumstances that they had to do it in.

As playing Golf is now once again off the agenda, so we must think positively and hope things change over the coming months to once again being allowed to play the great game we all love. This year, God willing, will see our 100 year centenary which we hope we can celebrate and we will be giving everyone the information on it as and when we know what we can and cannot do.

As a big thank you to you all we have reduced the AGA fees to 50 pence this year. Just to remind you that EG fees are also due by the end of January 2021 so in total the fees will be £10.00 which the proforma is on the website for payment as normal. Just to make it clear, the England Golf fee is £9.50 and AGA fee will be now £0.50 for this year only giving a total of £10 pounds. You should make sure this payment is completed by the end of January 2021. As per normal the County fees should be made payable to the county as and when they are requested.

All the new season competitions are on the website which we will not know how they will take place, but we will do all we can following the government guidelines and try and get them played, even if they are reduced in structure. We will keep in touch with your secretary as we will be sending them information as well as putting it on the website.

We have not been able to hold our AGM and council members have submitted some reports and our final balances for this year. These will be sent to your secretaries for you to view. All the council committee members have agreed to stay on and if anyone wishes to apply please let me know.

If anyone has any questions or needs any support, please feel free to contact me and, as always, I will do my best to help in any way I can.

I would like to thank all the Artisan club secretaries and their committees again this year and without your time and effort our clubs would not be run to the high standards we have within our Artisan sections. Last of all I would like to thank you all for the work you do and support you give the AGA and also all the AGA council committee members once again for all the time they have given up to ensure we provide you as our members the best possible events advice and support we can.

I wish you all good health and hopefully we all have a safe passage through this dreadful chain of events. I thank you all for your support of our association so that you can enjoy each other's company and hopefully a nice summer of golf ahead once we get back to some form of normality.

Bill Johns
Hon Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Very healthy year in terms of finances as you can see from the summary. It is a real shame that the pandemic prevented a full suite of competitions and matches. Let's hope that we can make that up a bit this year - the 100th for the AGA.

Most of you managed to pay on time, but there are always a few that need chasing. Please pay promptly or let me know if there is a problem. 2021 fees are now due. I have reduced the fee for 2021 to 50p per head plus the £9.50 England golf fee fees which makes a total of £10, £5 less than 2020.

Let's hope the pandemic recovery allows some golf soon.

Keep safe and well.

Warren Francis
Hon Treasurer

England Golf Report

In what has been a difficult year we saw the introduction the World Handicap System in November 2020. After a few teething problems, this is now settling down and you should be able to use the England Golf App from April 2021.

Safe Golf

Safe Golf will commence from 01 April 2021. It is important all artisan clubs are signed up to this. Please see: <https://www.englandgolf.org/club-support/safeguarding/be-a-safe-golf-club/>. If you are having any difficulties contact your Hon Secretary, Bill Johns, first.

Return to Golf

Updated 01 March - Relevant as of Monday 29th March 2021

This framework forms a part of our 'Play Safe, Stay Safe' support and guidance for golfers, clubs and counties. All frameworks can be accessed through our website – englandgolf.org
Any guidance may be re-issued as government measures to combat COVID-19 are updated in the future. Please refer to the government website for the most up-to-date guidance and laws on COVID-19 related social restrictions: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

A FRAMEWORK FOR PLAYING GOLF

England Golf has been working closely with partners from across the sport, including The R&A, fellow home nations, PGA and other industry associations to draw together a framework under which golf may be safely enjoyed.

There are many different types of golf clubs and golf facilities each requiring safe procedures to be finalised and implemented locally. However, the fundamentals are the same throughout the sport, which has a good record of compliance with rules and procedures.

These procedures include all aspects of the golfing experience. The over-riding consideration throughout must be to 'Play Safe, Stay Safe'.

While each club/facility will need to adapt its procedures to ensure compliance with government restrictions, the following aspects of the golfer experience, divided into the five following categories, will need to be considered:

1. Course set-up, including information on course furniture (such as flags and rakes) and practice areas
2. Before the round, relating to tee-time booking processes, arrival and waiting to play
3. During the round, in particular golfer behaviour and social distancing in different areas of the course
4. After the round, detailing what golfers can and/or must do following the conclusion of their round
5. Competitions and Rules of Golf, including the registration process, scoring and formats of play

Clubs/ facilities should adhere to the guidelines provided. These have been published to assist clubs/ facilities in providing as safe an environment as they can. Failure to follow this guidance may leave clubs/ facilities open to enforcement action from local authorities and/or police, or subject to disciplinary procedures from England Golf.

1. Course Set-up

On-Course Items

- All rakes and ball retrievers to be removed. Players may bring their own personal rakes and retrievers, which should only be handled by that player and taken away at the end of their round
- Ball washers and drinking fountains to be covered up
- Open-top bins may be used on course, provided measures are taken to sanitise the bin and to ensure players do not touch the bin or its contents
- All other removable items to be removed. Stakes defining areas of the course can be treated as immovable obstructions

Hole and Flagstick

- Flagsticks can be retained, but it is strongly recommended that a sign is put on the flagstick stating that it is not to be touched
- A method of inserting the hole liner to be used that means all of the ball does not fall below the surface of the putting green and can be easily retrieved by handling the ball only. Ball-lifting mechanisms may also be used

Practice Areas and Lessons

- Practice areas, including driving ranges and practice nets, may be opened if safe sanitising practices can be guaranteed
- Indoor practice facilities must remain closed
- Lessons, including group lessons, may take place providing government guidelines are followed and appropriate sanitisation is guaranteed
- Junior group lessons, classified as 'Out-of-School-Settings', are limited to 15 children and covered by government guidance - [click here to access this guidance](#)
- Adult group lesson sizes are covered by the government's general advice on social groupings, currently the "rule of six" or more if limited to two households

2. Before the Round

Bookings

- Four-ball groups are permitted on-course with no restriction on the mixing of households. Overall group sizes must not exceed six, including any caddies or chaperones, unless the group is made up of two households or fewer
- Clubs/facilities to organise a system of booking and allocation of tee times that ensures the safety of staff and golfers and lessen the chance of people congregating
- A 10-minute interval is advised between tee times, but clubs may use shorter intervals provided that they can demonstrate that this is safe and ensures appropriate social distancing

Arrival and Waiting to Play

- Clubhouses must remain closed
- Pro shops must remain closed, unless acting as a reception point. If that is the case, safety measures such as plastic screens, removing any touchpoints and contactless payment must be considered

- It is illegal for gatherings of more than six people to take place either indoor or outdoor, except for limited exceptions
- Clubs/facilities have a legal obligation to collect details of all members and visitors entering the clubhouse for track and trace. These details must be stored, in compliance with GDPR, for 21 days
- Clubs/ facilities must also display an official NHS QR Code poster so that visitors can 'check-in' as an alternative to providing their contact details.
[Click here for more detail and to create a QR Code](#)
- Players should still arrive changed for play and refrain from showering or changing in locker rooms. Golf shoes should be changed in the car park ● Toilets and wash-hand basins in locker rooms may remain in use ● Face coverings must be worn by staff, golfers and visitors in all public indoor areas of the club/facility, such as an indoor reception area (if applicable), and toilets. There are some exemptions to wearing face coverings including children under the age of 11 and those with certain disabilities. Clubs should refer to government guidance to ensure compliance
- Clubs/facilities to communicate in advance with golfers to advise on social distancing requirements that are being applied on arrival at the club/facility
- Clubs/facilities to have procedures in place to ensure social distancing requirements in the area of the reception area (if applicable) or starter's building in advance of golfers teeing off
- Hiring of equipment is a decision for club/facility managers. Where they are hired, individuals can use trollies. These should not be shared. Two members of the same household may share buggies, but otherwise they should be used by individuals only. Facilities should follow sensible precautions and clean equipment after every use
- Clubs/facilities to have procedures in place for the practice putting green, for example giving priority of use to the players in the next group due to tee off
- Takeaway food and drink may be served to those waiting to tee off, but all outdoor tables, chairs and benches should be removed to avoid congregation

3. During the Round

Guidance and reminders should be provided by clubs/facilities to golfers to ensure that they maintain appropriate social distancing during the round.

Teeing Areas

- Remind golfers to maintain appropriate social distancing at teeing areas due to the normal close proximity of golfers to one another when tee shots are being played

General

- Remind golfers to maintain appropriate social distancing when walking to the ball, searching for a ball and playing shots ● Remind golfers not to touch stray balls

Bunkers

- With no communal rakes allowed on the course, remind golfers to make their very best efforts to smooth the sand using their club and/or their feet

Putting Green

- Remind golfers to maintain appropriate social distancing on the putting greens and not to touch the flagstick

Caddies

- Caddies may be used, provided group sizes do not exceed those specified by government ("rule of six" or two households)
- Where used, caddies should only provide guidance to players and should not handle clubs
- Appropriate social distancing and sanitising should be maintained by players and caddies at all times ● Competition organising committees should consider whether to permit caddies during competition play

4. After the Round

- Unless using a practice facility or ordering food and drink to take away and consume elsewhere, players should leave the site at the conclusion of their round so as to prevent congregations

5. Competitions and Rules of Golf

Clubs may choose to run competitions provided all social distancing and safety rules are strictly observed. Gatherings of people must be avoided at all times, including for registration or for presentations.

It is the responsibility of the host club to ensure that all relevant guidelines are followed and that a safe environment is provided for all players. Failure to do so may leave the club liable for enforcement action.

Registration Process

- Where open competitions take place, organising committees must put in place a registration process to capture full contact details of all players in case of the need to track and trace following a confirmed case of COVID19

Shotgun starts

- We do not recommend the use of shotgun starts at this time because of the increased likelihood of creating congregations of people before and after the round

Foursomes and Greensomes formats

- Each partner should use their own golf ball, which is only handled by that player. For example, the player teeing off from hole 1 is the only player that touches the ball from teeing off through to completion of the hole. The partner teeing off from hole 2 does likewise with their ball. Under the Rules of Golf, a partner is permitted to drop the side's ball in taking relief. It is also permissible to drop another ball when taking relief
- When marking and replacing the ball on the putting green this should be conducted by the partner the ball belongs to. Under this situation (or any other where the ball must be replaced) the original ball must be used and must not be substituted by another ball

Handicapping Provisions

To enable some of the changes to the way the game is played, CONGU (GB&I Handicap Authority) has issued some temporary adjustments to the playing of scores for handicap purposes, which may differ from the temporary changes to the Rules of Golf. Some of these are outlined below.

Note: Consult the relevant handicapping authority on whether scores using any of the provisions below are acceptable for handicapping purposes - [click here to access CONGU guidance](#)

Forms of Play and Scoring

- If competitive stroke play is played, a method of scoring needs to be used that does not require any exchanging of scorecards
- Committees may choose to allow methods of scoring in stroke play that do not strictly comply with Rule 3.3b, or do not comply with the normal methods used under Rule 3.3b. For example
- Players may enter their own hole scores on the scorecard (it is not necessary for a marker to do it)
- It is not necessary to have a marker physically certify the player's hole scores, but some form of verbal certification should take place
- It is not necessary to physically return a scorecard to the committee provided the committee can accept the scores in another way
- Player Score Input (PSI) screens should not be used ■ As provided in the Rules of Golf, scorecards can be electronic, which could include emailing or texting scores to the committee.
- Further guidance on this has now been provided by CONGU - [click here to access the guidance](#)

Bunkers

- The distance for preferred lies in the bunker is limited to 6 inches and the area cannot be smoothed before placing

Flagstick

- Golfers are required to leave the flagstick in the hole at all times and not to touch it. It is a matter for the committee to decide whether it establishes this policy by way of a code of conduct or local rule, and whether it provides a penalty under the code of conduct or for a breach of the local rule
- As a temporary provision, flagsticks can be used for the purpose of player safety which do not meet the specifications in part 8 of the equipment rules
- Allow players to centre the flagstick in a safe manner which does not involve using the hand, even when wearing a glove or using a towel (for example, by using a club). The centring of the flagstick may be allowed while another player putts (this may be desirable in windy

conditions when the flagstick is required to be left in the hole and is leaning towards the player making the stroke)

Hole and Holed

- The hole liner (sometimes referred to as the hole 'cup') may be set in a way that means that all of the ball cannot be below the surface of the putting green, so the ball is considered holed if any part of it is below the surface of the putting green

Return to Golf Timeline

ENGLAND GOLF

PLAY SAFE STAY SAFE

GOLF'S RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOLS

29th March 2021

- Playing golf can **resume**
- Up to **fourball** play with **pre-booked** tee times
- Takeaway food and drink **only**
- Outdoor practice facilities may **reopen**
- Coaching may take place for **1-to-1** lessons or for groups of up to **6** including the coach/volunteer

12th April 2021

- Professional shops can **reopen**
- Outdoor social areas may **reopen**
- Food and drink **can be served outside** (rule of six)
- Locker rooms and changing facilities may **reopen**

17th May 2021

- Indoor social areas may **reopen**, rule of six applies
- x30** Maximum gathering of 30 outdoors
- Indoor coaching facilities may **reopen**, rule of **6** applies

21st June 2021

- All remaining facilities may **reopen**
- NO LIMITS!** No limits on numbers or social distancing
- Review** on use of course rakes, divot boxes and ball washers
- Review** on removal of flagsticks
- Review** on the exchange of scorecards

Dates and revisions are subject to change, depending on government reviews
For more detailed guidance, please go to www.englandgolf.org/coronavirus
englandgolf.org/PlaySafe

Due to the pandemic a lot of competitions have been postponed to later in the year. Check the England Golf website for the latest information (englandgolf.org)

Affiliation Fees

Nationally agreed collection policies and procedures for dealing with late payment of affiliation fees

It was agreed at the County Treasurer meeting on the 14 December 2020 to have a standard record of action to take in the event of late payment of affiliation fees. This is intended to achieve as consistent a collection policy nationally as possible although counties may at their discretion vary the procedures if they feel their relationship with a club needs a different approach. However, the spirit of what was agreed at the Treasurer meeting means some consistency is aimed for and counties should justify to themselves variations from the below when they are made.

The correct payment and declaration terms are:

- 1) 2 months after the club year start within an affiliation season (1 Nov to 31 Oct club year starts) - MAIN RETURN
- 2) 8 months after the club year start - MID-YEAR RETURN
- 3) For rolling club year starts the default year start is April (unless otherwise agreed) and the same terms then apply as in 1) and 2).

Any payment or declaration after these dates is deemed a late payment

The procedure for late payment should be:

- 1) Up to a one month of late payment (i.e. up to three months after club year start). This is a grace period to sort out any complications at club level re staff holidays, membership payment issues etc. No formal action is taken in this time, but counties should send reminder communications as per official software and also contact club to ascertain any reason.
- 2) Between one and two months of late payment. Clubs should be contacted and asked to provide a reason why they have not paid by this time. In exceptional circumstances, a payment plan may be arranged with the collecting county if the club is in genuine difficulty and can clearly state when monies will be paid over in a reasonable time. Otherwise, the collecting county should warn the club in writing (email is fine) that if the late payment continues then at the three-month late payment stage then rounds on the course will no longer be valid for handicap/index recording and that personal liability cover will not be valid for the club's members.
- 3) At the three-month late payment stage (for 1 April club year starts this will be 1 September for example) clubs that have not paid/declared should have the sanctions mentioned in point 2) applied with and this can be with no further notice although counties can of course communicate with clubs at this stage. If the club then pays these sanctions these sanctions can be reversed.
- 4) In the event of more prolonged non-payment (2 further months - so five months late) then counties should consider disaffiliation after consulting with England Golf. This can be considered also at an earlier stage when a club has a persistent pattern of late payment year on year.

Simon Wilson/Finance Director/22 December 2020

Patrick Cunningham
Temporary England Golf Representative

Competitions

The Carr Memorial and Veterans/Challenge Trophy have been cancelled for this year.

Flackwell Heath

Chasing Rainbows

In 2019 our small band of Flackwell Heath Artisans started putting together a plan to celebrate our 100th Anniversary on 19th April 2020. 14 of us put together a great field consisting of 136 old members, fellow artisans from the other BB&O clubs, parent club members, AGA & EGU dignitaries and guests to help us celebrate this auspicious occasion. A fantastic day on a challenging course in great condition with a host of excellent prizes for the competitions and a classic dinner to finish was in the making. We were poised and ready for the great day to arrive.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 lockdown arrived instead. Undaunted and optimistic we, now only 8 members persevered, we re-scheduled for 31st October 2020. Spirits were high - we would not cancel, we had the support of all invitees, the sponsors and the parent club. The show must go on.

Golf was back on, but only two ball, this was going to be a challenge. Daylight hours were never going to be on our side to field 136 players, plus social distancing restrictions would seriously impact the planned day of celebration. With still no let up from the wrath of Covid19 and all the plans, prizes and entertainment ready to go at the push of a button our only option was to delay further.

We re-scheduled for exactly 1 year after the initial date, we would now be 101 years old and still going strong. The third lockdown still in place and our anniversary edging ever closer. Will the summer be when we finally get to enjoy our day with all our friends and colleagues?

Covid-19 is an interruption of play we have not experienced in our lifetime. The Centenary Day Celebrations will take place made all the sweeter by the expectation and anticipation of the day.

Dr Paul Cadle
Secretary FHAGS

Grange Park

Stan Platt joined Grange Park Artisans in St Helen's in the mid 1960s. In over 50 years he has proven himself the most dedicated and reliable artisan you could ever meet. Still as fit as a fiddle he is always first to volunteer for any duty required and to help the club in any way he can.

Whilst his work ethic is second to none, his enthusiasm and competitive spirit for the game itself remains intact (you still get a blood curdling icy stare from Stan if you concede a putt in a match) and he is still often in the frame in our competitions, winning occasionally too. As with life in general Stan is always "Straight down the middle" rarely wavering from the belief that we are all privileged to play the game of golf as Artisans.

A truly remarkable gent who CONTINUES to be admired by all who meet him. Crack on Stan



Written by Steve Winstanley

Hartsbourne

Hartsbourne Artisans over the last year have managed to raise £1000 which has been donated to Macmillan Nurses and Cancer Research UK. These funds have been raised through various events and competitions. It has been tough in the last year to play as much as we would have liked but as a club, we still found it important to do our bit. A long-standing member unfortunately passed away and a few of the other members families have also been affected. These charities gave comfort to those affected. Charity is an important part of the Hartsbourne ethos and we hope to continue raising money this year when we can play again

Many thanks
Jack Pratchett
Hartsbourne

Royal Cinque Ports

Deal Artisan history

In 2007 one of our members wrote a booklet about the Royal Cinque Ports Artisans history; this came about following his attendance at our Presentation evening the year before when he asked a few members who Newman was when his Shield got presented and nobody seemed to know; he therefore took the decision to get as much down in writing as he could find before it was lost and first the piece

of information he gleaned was that Newman was a Royal Marine Lt. Col A C Newman, Parent Club Captain 1964-66, who was awarded the VC for his bravery at St. Nazairre.

At the time of his initial research, he spoke to a number of former members all whom have since passed away and information at that time seemed to indicate that we started in 1935 and were known as The Royal Cinque Ports Ground Staff and Caddies Club. During the first lockdown he found evidence that 1933 was probably more accurate but there was something in the way that it was written that he decided to re-read a chapter entitled 1920-1929 in David Dobby's book England's Finest Links (the history of our Parent Club) and was elated to find wording which indicated that we had been formed as Artisans during this period. He contacted the author who was able to confirm that, following a request from the Artisan Golfing Association, (they celebrate their Centenary this year) for confirmation of having Artisans being attached that the minutes of a meeting on 24th September 1927 confirmed this. Further work has continued and it looks like 1926 may be our original start date as the Caddies Club; also that at the time of the AGA National Championship being held at Deal in 2019 it was thought that this was for the first time but he now knows that in June 1948 it was held at Deal and was won by E. Ashmore from Buxton & High Peaks with a morning score of 77 and afternoon of 75, the latter being played in a deluge.

Guard of Honor for former Kent golf Artisan Champion

Royal Cinque Ports Artisans Golf Club sadly lost a loved member who was popular and well known across the Kent Artisan circuit. Mark "Wacca" Wakefield passed away on 28th July 2020 after suffering from unexpected health issues. Wacca could only be described as a giant personality of the Royal Cinque Ports Artisan Section. He was a very proud and loyal servant to the club, representing us in all of our fixtures over his time as a member and being selected on countless occasions to represent the club against Royal St Georges Artisan Section in which is one of our most anticipated matches in our calendar.

Not only was Wacca a club champion winning our singles knockout competition in 2018 he also became the Kent Artisan Champion in 2018 and you only need to look around the Artisan Club house to realise the high caliber of golfer that Wacca was.

The Artisans gave Wacca a sendoff he would have been proud of forming a guard of honor in which over 40 Deal Artisans took part in.



Virtual Artisans

Lockdown threw a fair number of challenges at our Artisan section, we had to manage a reduced playing availability due to the high demand put on our Parent club, we needed to manage competitions in line with new COVID regulations and prepare ourselves for the introduction of the World Handicap System.

In the past our competition entry sheet would have been mounted on the club house wall for all to enter the latest competitions, the committee would then conduct the competition draw by creating score card and randomly selecting pairings to play on our Sunday competitions. The draw would be present on the notice board for members to come down to the Artisan hut and find out their tee time and playing partner. Once they had finished their round their score card would then be handed to the committee member running the competition who would then manually check and log the players score card in to our A4 note book for club records before the competition winner was announced.

Roll on COVID-19 early 2020 and everything had to change. We were fortunate enough to have invested in a system called Master Score Board but had up until this point decided not to utilize this particular tool. We now run competitions completely virtually using MSB to enter, conduct the draw, record scores and check cards and post competition results.

After lockdown 1.0 the return to golf was gradual but when you play at such a prestige golf course such as Royal Cinque Ports the demand to play is always high and when you add the fact that no one had been allowed on the course for a month the demand was always going to be higher. The Parent club who have continued to support the Artisan section recognized the high demand of golfer wishing to play but also recognized that the Artisan section should be allowed a period of protected time to play. After discussions to understand what time and allocation could best serve the Artisans and allow Royal Cinque Ports to continue managing the high demand from its own members and visitors. The Artisans were permitted a playing time from 4-5 and at weekends this time was increased due to the majority of the Artisans being unable to play mid-week due to work commitments. We now had to manage and record our playing times to ensure fairness for all Artisans and so came in handy Master Score Board once again this application allowed us to provide our members with playing slots that they would need to book in advance. Each member was allocated one slot per week to ensure everyone had a fair chance to play and more often than not we were able to provide our members with a second tee time.

As a club we now have all members on board with our use of digital applications and even after COVID has departed we will continue to use these great tools that have allowed us to continue playing the sport we love so much.

Royal Mid-Surrey

A Captains View

I had the honour of being the Captain of Royal Mid-Surrey Artisans for the year 2020.

Starting my year with much enthusiasm, along came Covid 19 and our lives started to feel different. No golf for 7 weeks! Eventually when golf resumed the Parent Club asked could we do some extra duties in preparation for golf returning. As we have such a dedicated membership it was no problem getting willing volunteers to help, work completed in glorious sunshine, lots of praise from the Parent Club.

Golf returned but seems like everyone in the world wanted to play at Royal Mid-Surrey. We did manage to have our members playing without many losing out, no competition golf though and we hope competition golf returns in 2021.

I found myself spending many an hour helping with the starting on the 1st tee as Covid 19 restrictions dictated, also being a black cab driver work had dried up.

Not easy to build new relationships during these difficult times, but I was fortunate to have the Parent Club Ladies and Gents Captains' support me well throughout these challenging times.

We did manage to get a couple of our annual matches in, albeit not the same with reduced numbers and catering arrangements. Worthy of note was our first annual fixture playing snooker with the Ladies. We also introduced a new tradition this year by making the Lady Captain an honorary Vice President for her year of Captaincy, no longer reserved solely for the Gents Captain so helping to strengthen our relationship with our Parent Club.

I'm sure all of the Artisan clubs had difficulties throughout the year and I hope we can get back to some sort of normality, with the prospect of playing some competitive golf against each other and renewing old friendships and finding new ones to.

Stay safe
Alan Thompson
RMSAGC Captain 2020

And finally ...

2020 was a challenging year for all and makes us realise how important the little things are and how much we have taken for granted. It is interesting to see how the different artisan clubs have made the best of the times during these difficult days. May 2021 bring us hope and many reunions on and off the golf course. Please continue to let us have your news and views for the next edition of the magazine and send them to editor@agagolf.co.uk

The AGA Centenary celebrations will now take place in 2022, so that is something positive to look forward to.

The Editor